

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Status of Claims

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-8. Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is herein amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshino (US 2004/0044428) in view of **Asada** (JP 02-146660) in view of **Takeshi** (JP S57-197236) and Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Yoshino** (US 2004/0044428) in view of **Asada** (JP 02-146660) in view of **Takeshi** (JP S57-197236) [JP S59-103101] in view of **Kuriyama** (JP 09-149157).

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1, as amended, is drawn to at least ... *a first controller unit for executing a process corresponding to an output from an analog-to-digital conversion circuit, said analog-to-digital conversion circuit receiving input from said sensor unit*

For example, support for this amendment may be found on page 8, lines 16-17 as follows: “[t]he microphone 40 is a sensor for detecting a sound, and its output is input into the main microcomputer 42 via the A/D conversion circuit 41.”

Asada clearly does not disclose the amended feature of claim 1. More specifically, Asada, explicitly discloses that during the output period of the synthesized sound from the voice input control part 6 to the attenuator 8, the input voice signal to microphone 7 is attenuated by a specific quantity and outputted to a speech recognition part 9 in the output period of synthesized sound so as to prevent the misrecognition between the synthesized speech and operator voices (Abstract and accompanying figure to Abstract).

In other words, because the electronic attenuator 8 in Asada is purely a resistive element (variable resistor), it is merely capable of receiving a sound in analog form and attenuating the amplitude of the sound signal so that one sound is distinguishable from another. Asada, however, does not teach or disclose the microphone 7 outputs to analog-to-digital converter before inputting to the speech recognizer 9.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that Asada does not disclose at least *a first controller unit for executing a process corresponding to an output from an analog-to-digital conversion circuit, said analog-to-digital conversion circuit receiving input from said sensor unit* as recited in amended claim 1. Furthermore, Yoshino and/or Takeshi do not remedy the above-mentioned deficit of Asada.

On page 4, lines 3-6, the Examiner states that “[s]ince the claim as written does not limit the time period to being exactly the time difference between operation and non-operation of the key, a longer time period which overlaps the claimed time period is believed to read on the claim limitations as written.”

In view of the foregoing statement, Applicants amend claim 1 as follows to further distinguish it from Takeshi: *a second processor unit for deactivating said first controller unit from executing the process corresponding to the output of the sensor unit for a predetermined period of time from said key operation based on the output from said first processor unit, said predetermined period of time is a time for detecting the key operation, wherein said time for detecting the key operation is the time between when a key is operated and when the key is non-operated.*

In contrast, in Takeshi, a predetermined time period is defined as the time period that has to elapse after a door switch and various kinds of relay contact and etc. have operated.

Because the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the claimed elements and limitations in amended claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not make the combination as obvious and the resulting combination would not yield the invention in claims 1-4. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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